

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 8 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
8 DECEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

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This is the first report of petroleum shortages in Hanoi itself and we have no ready explanation for it.

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Shortages which have appeared in other parts of North Vietnam have been attributed by the North Vietnamese themselves to transport and distribution difficulties.

2. Nigeria

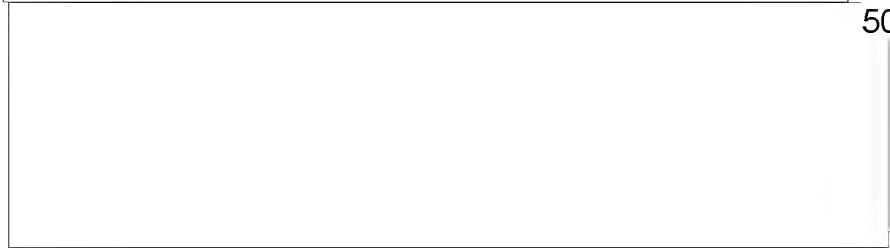
Prospects for working out a new constitution appear dimmer than ever.

Western leaders are now showing an increased sense of estrangement from the rest of the country. They are demanding the immediate removal of all northern troops from their region, and are beginning to side with the East in favor of a loose confederation. Supreme Commander Gowon still insists on establishing an "effective federation," but efforts to get Eastern leaders even to talk about this concept are getting nowhere faster than usual.

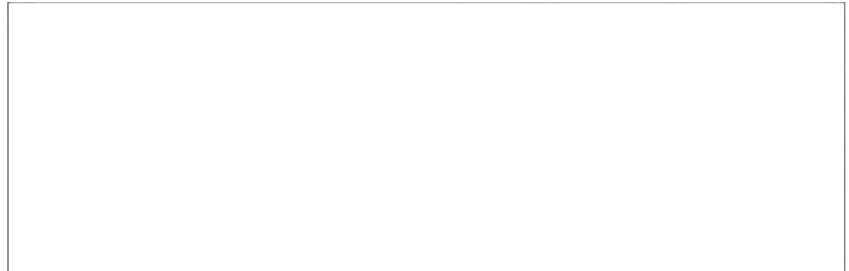
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3. Soviet Union

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4. Soviet Union**5. Communist China**

Evidence mounts that some fields of Chinese science and technology are being hurt by the "cultural revolution." For one thing, we have noted that many Chinese scientific and technical journals have been shut down since the "revolution" got under way.

The latest example of this comes from the field of medicine. An official announcement reads: "To satisfy the ardent desire of the broad masses to study the works of Chairman Mao, serial publications of the Chinese Medical Association will be suspended and all efforts concentrated on printing Chairman Mao's works."

6. Communist World

 plans are afoot for a conference of European Communist parties in Warsaw early next year. Officially the agenda will be limited to Vietnamese and European security issues, but attitudes toward a world Communist meeting are certain to be aired.

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8 Dec 66

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7. Macao

The colony has been calm since last week's riots. The Communists responsible have their blood up, however. Probably encouraged by the Portuguese authorities' virtual capitulation to their original demands, they are now upping the ante.

8. Syria

Seizure of the Western-owned Iraq Petroleum Company's pipeline will have these principal repercussions:

--Damascus will lose its revenue from the pipeline, since the company has refused to meet Syrian demands that would nearly double the fees.

--The Syrian refinery will soon be without crude oil, since the company intends to stop pumping oil from Iraq immediately and has diverted all Syrian-bound tankers.

--Lebanon stands to lose \$4 million a year in fees from its branch of the pipeline, even though the company will try to supply the Lebanese refinery by other means.

--Iraq will lose about 40 percent of its government revenue.

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